

**Summary of TEN meeting at The Building Centre 16.11.05
inaugurating the third series of meetings 2005-6**

Present

Peter Bishop, Director of Culture and Environment Camden Council
Chris Donovan, Assistant Director (Strategy, Planning and Regeneration) Bexley Council
Marc Dorfman, Head of Regeneration, Ealing Council
Paul Evans, Strategic Director of Regeneration, Southwark Council
Tom Jeffrey, Director of Environment and Leisure, LB Sutton
Shifa Mustafa, Assistant Director of Planning, Haringey Council

Nicholas Falk, URBED
Esther Caplin, URBED

Apologies

John Best, Chief Executive, Milton Keynes Council
Paul Clark, Chief Planning Officer, LB Redbridge
David Hennings, Director of Strategic Planning, Haringey Council
John Herman, Divisional Director, Regeneration and Development, LB Newham
Phillip Goodwin, Director of Planning and Development, Croydon Council

The first meeting in the third TEN series took place at The Building Centre in London WC1 and focused on the programme for 2005-6, after a discussion of NLA (New London Architecture) the new exhibition centre dedicated to the built environment in London. Briefing was circulated in advance including papers on the NLA and documents listing TEN meetings, discussion topics and case studies distributed over the past two years. A draft evaluation of TEN activities was included (for updating) and, as a prompt for discussion about the third series of meetings, a paper setting out the partnership model for Central Milton Keynes.

The meeting began with an introduction to NLA by Andrew Scoones of The Building Centre, and a walk round the model with Peter Bishop as guide. Our discussion session began with a review of the report of the Dutch Tour, and Nicholas Falk facilitated discussion on the future programme.

A summary of conclusions follows.

TEN is grateful to The Building Centre Trust for its hospitality.

New London Architecture

The ground floor of The Building Centre has been turned into a permanent exhibition of New London Architecture. The Pipers Model is the centrepiece and changing exhibitions are coordinated by NLA (Peter Murray) or The Building Centre (Andrew Scoones). Discussion included the issue of 'partiality' of the model which covers central London and areas to the west (to Paddington) and the east (Newham and plans for the Olympic site). The model does not relate to borough boundaries and visitors do not get an impression of the whole of London as outer London boroughs are not included. It appears that local authority planning departments are not fully aware of the display and may not have fed into it. The model and texts around it are updated every three months, and Andrew is keen for any feedback and ideas from the Group. There is space around the walls to feature innovative projects.

Evaluation of TEN

The past two years have been of great value. Marc Dorfman has found the papers and briefing packs a great resource and has distributed these to his planning department. Others have commented that the 'exciting' ideas discussed in the Group have filtered through their departments. Paul Evans commented that while there are many local authority groups in existence, there is no other natural grouping especially at a senior level. It was agreed that TEN was not a lobbying group, and that other groups involving some of its members are doing this (e.g. London Environment Directors, ALBPO).

TEN will therefore continue for a third series of meetings during the coming year, but will take up a new theme of partnership and the sub regional dimension.

The enthusiasm and informality of the Group was endorsed by Tom Jeffrey, a potential new member, who commented on the very warm welcome he had received.

Membership

The Group welcomed Tom Jeffrey, Director of Environment and Leisure, LB Sutton, and invited him to join TEN.

While wishing to keep the Group small, it is important that meetings are well attended and that we avoid situations as in Newham where an excellent tour and meeting was attended by only three members. In the future members are asked to send substitutes if they are unable to attend themselves.

Others may be invited to join by personal invitation and agreement of the whole Group, and members who know of like-minded opposite numbers in other authorities in the South East are asked to sound them out.

Andrew Wells, ODPM, has agreed to host a meeting. TEN may not take up this offer, but Andrew will be invited on trips with TEN.

Focus and themes

While TEN does not want to lose its qualities of an informal, small Group providing opportunities for peer group discussion and blue sky thinking, it was felt that a new focus might be introduced for a third series of meetings. As a Group of senior officers with differing perspectives depending on their backgrounds (e.g. planning, architecture, engineering), TEN members share a common set of values and interests as urbanists. They should be able to see linkages and the bigger picture.

Discussion included involving agencies that local authorities worked with, but these would probably feel obliged to give a 'party line' in any discussions. Centres of Excellence, and local area agreements were considered as possible focuses for the series. Tom Jeffrey raised the issue of the parlous state of London's suburbs, their over-congestion and deterioration. It was agreed that the relations between London's suburbs and the centre, and between London and the South East Region were key issues for local authorities. (Incidentally the review of the London Plan is likely to focus on suburbs or outer London). The topics of linking transport, housing and developments in the context of the bigger picture, which have emerged from past meetings, were important topics for discussion.

Report of TEN visit to the Netherlands

The bound report has been circulated and CDs are available from URBED. A discussion took place on how the findings of the report might be used to influence practice. An article will be sought in *Regeneration and Renewal*: a copy of the report will be sent for review and they would be asked to interview participants in the visit about what they saw and what they've done as a result.

Programme

Five further meetings will take place in the third series during 2006. The format will continue as before and they will include two day trips, one to Lille and Roubaix, and another to Newcastle and Gateshead.

The Group favoured the idea of an extended visit to Turin, but the organisation of this will be informal with Marc Dorfman emailing travel and hotel details to other members for a possible trip in October.

Ealing Challenge

In addition to the programme outlined below, MD is putting up £5-6,000 for group members to come and give a 'masterclass' to planners in Ealing. Members will bring staff from their own planning departments to take part. The discussion will be around what members are doing, and what skills they want. MD invited other members of TEN to follow suite. The funds would be used for fees, facilitation, administration etc.

TEN Third Series 2005-6

URBED will contact meeting hosts to discuss themes and format in advance.

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| 16 November 2005 | The Building Centre Planning meeting |
| January 2006 | Sutton (Tom Jeffrey) Theme: the congested suburb/movement Site visit and meeting location: BedZed <i>Date to be announced</i> |
| March | North East London (Shifa Mustafa) Theme: poverty/housing; transport links for people (not just the fast link to Stanstead) Site visit and meeting location: possibly Hornsey |
| May – Day visit | Lille/Roubaix Theme: transport/housing [PB - contacts; MD - information] OR Newcastle/Gateshead Theme: Sub regional planning and funding infrastructure project [CORE cities; Northern Way] |
| July | Meeting with TfL and Network Rail – Ben Plowden Theme: Intergrated transport and better interchanges outside of Central London Venue: Camden? Tbc |
| September – Day visit | Newcastle/Gateshead OR Lille/Roubaix |
| October | Optional visit to TURIN <i>MD circulating details to group</i> |

*Nicholas Falk
Esther Caplin
November 2005*